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USIB-D-21.4/1
1 August 1963

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT :

[Redacted]

25X1

REFERENCES:

- a. USIB-S-14.1/5, 11 July
- b. USIB-M-281, 31 July, Special Annex, Item 6

25X1

The attached cable, which is forwarded for information and record, was coordinated by the USIB representatives and transmitted [Redacted]

25X6

[Redacted] on 31 July as directed by USIB at its meeting on that date

(see reference b.).

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[Redacted]

Attachment

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

MORI/CDF

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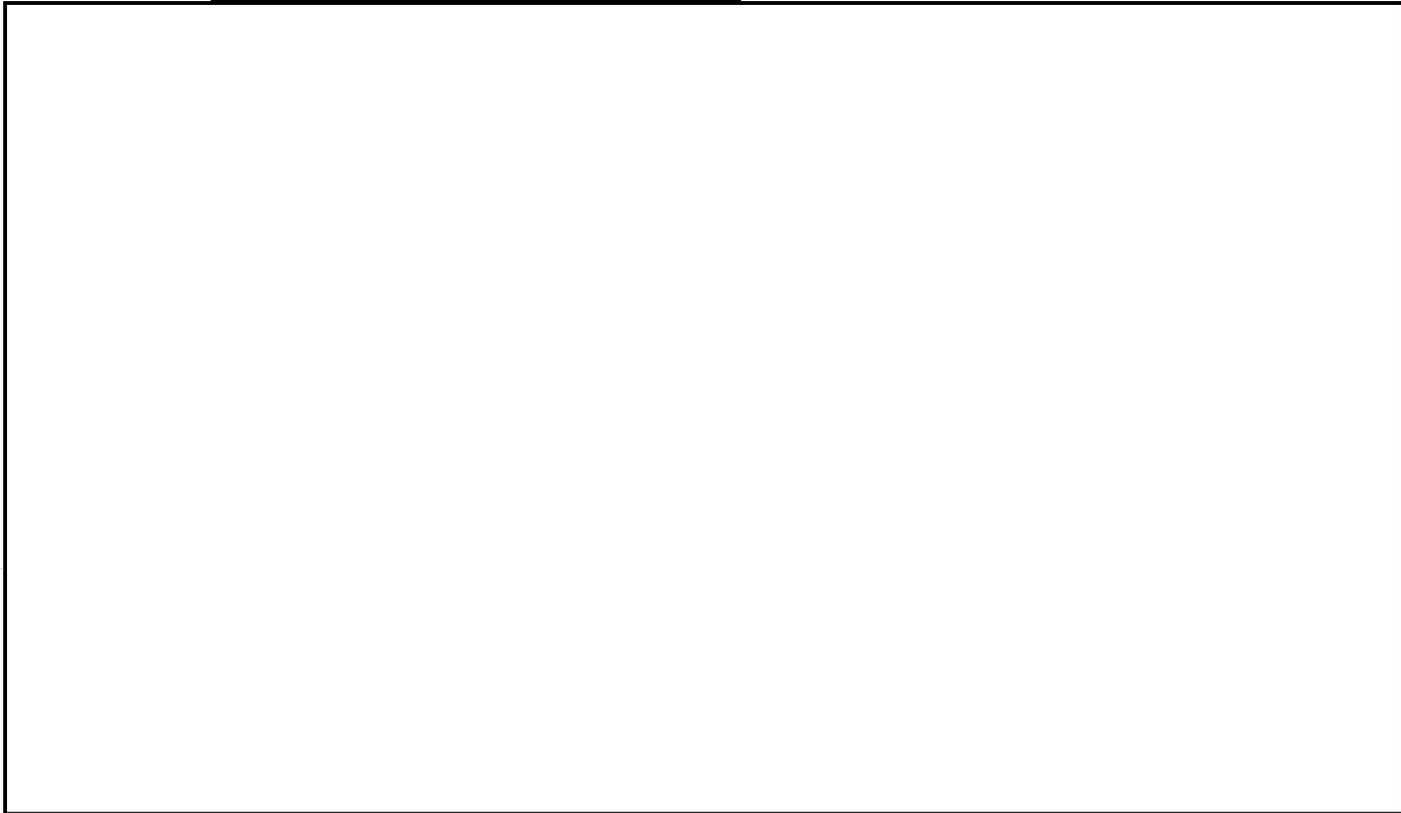
FROM: DCI 25X1

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TO:



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2. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF HEIGHTENED CHINESE INTEREST AND POSSIBLE INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN BORDER AREA, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEFA AREA, WE DO NOT BELIEVE A LARGE SCALE BUILDUP HAS OCCURRED. IN ANY CASE, THE FORCES NOW IN PLACE ARE CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING ATTACKS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF LAST AUTUMN WITH PRACTICALLY NO WARNING AND WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE CHINESE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED THEIR LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY SINCE THAT TIME, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE STOCKPILING

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OF SUPPLIES IN THE AREA AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ROADS LEADING TO THE FRONTIER.

3. THE CHINESE COMMUNIST MILITARY SITUATION: CHINESE COMMUNIST MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE TIBET MILITARY REGION AND THAT PART OF SINKIANG ADJACENT TO LADAKH IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 120,000. THE MAJOR UNITS ADJACENT TO THE FRONTIER ARE DEPLOYED AS FOLLOWS: OPPOSITE NEFA: AT LEAST 43,600 INCLUDING ELEMENTS OF ONE INFANTRY DIVISION AND POSSIBLY OF A SECOND, SEVEN INDEPENDENT INFANTRY REGIMENTS AND THREE BORDER DEFENSE REGIMENTS. OPPOSITE BHUTAN, SIKKIM AND NEPAL: 25,000 INCLUDING AT LEAST ELEMENTS OF ONE INFANTRY DIVISION, THREE INDEPENDENT INFANTRY REGIMENTS, AND TWO BORDER DEFENSE REGIMENTS. ADJACENT TO THE LADAKH AREA: APPROXIMATELY 10,000; INCLUDING ELEMENTS OF ONE INFANTRY DIVISION (BASED IN SINKIANG) AND ONE CAVALRY REGIMENT. INCLUDED IN THE 120,000 FIGURE ARE VARIOUS ARTILLERY, ENGINEER, INTERNAL SECURITY, AND SUPPORT TROOPS LOCATED IN TIBET PROPER.

4. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNIST CHINA RESENTS THE TURN OF EVENTS WHICH HAS SEEN THE USSR MOVE TOWARD DETENTE WITH THE WEST AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE SINO-SOVIET QUARREL HAS REACHED A NEW PEAK OF VINDICTIVENESS. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER THE CHINESE MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT THEIR

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INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY MORE ASSERTIVE ACTIONS. WE HAVE SOME INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE NEW CHINESE ACTIONS, BUT THESE REMAIN SLIGHT AS YET. EVEN THOUGH THE CHINESE ARE ESPECIALLY PERTURBED AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL ACT RECKLESSLY OR RUN VERY GREAT RISKS.

31 July 1963

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